

NO. 23

March 1<sup>st</sup> 1807

At 8<sup>th</sup> & Walnut

An'

Inaugural Dissertation

On

Pneumonia Biliosa

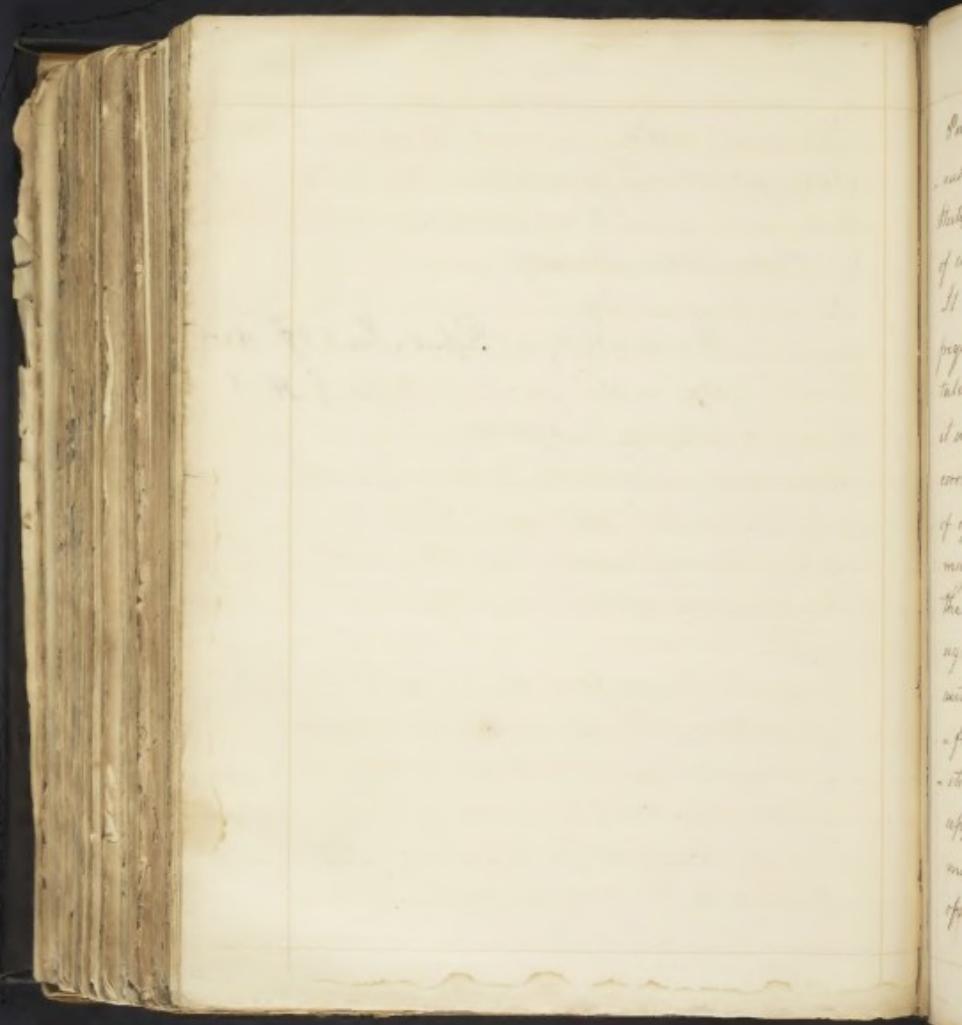
by

Henry May D.D. March 27<sup>th</sup> 1807

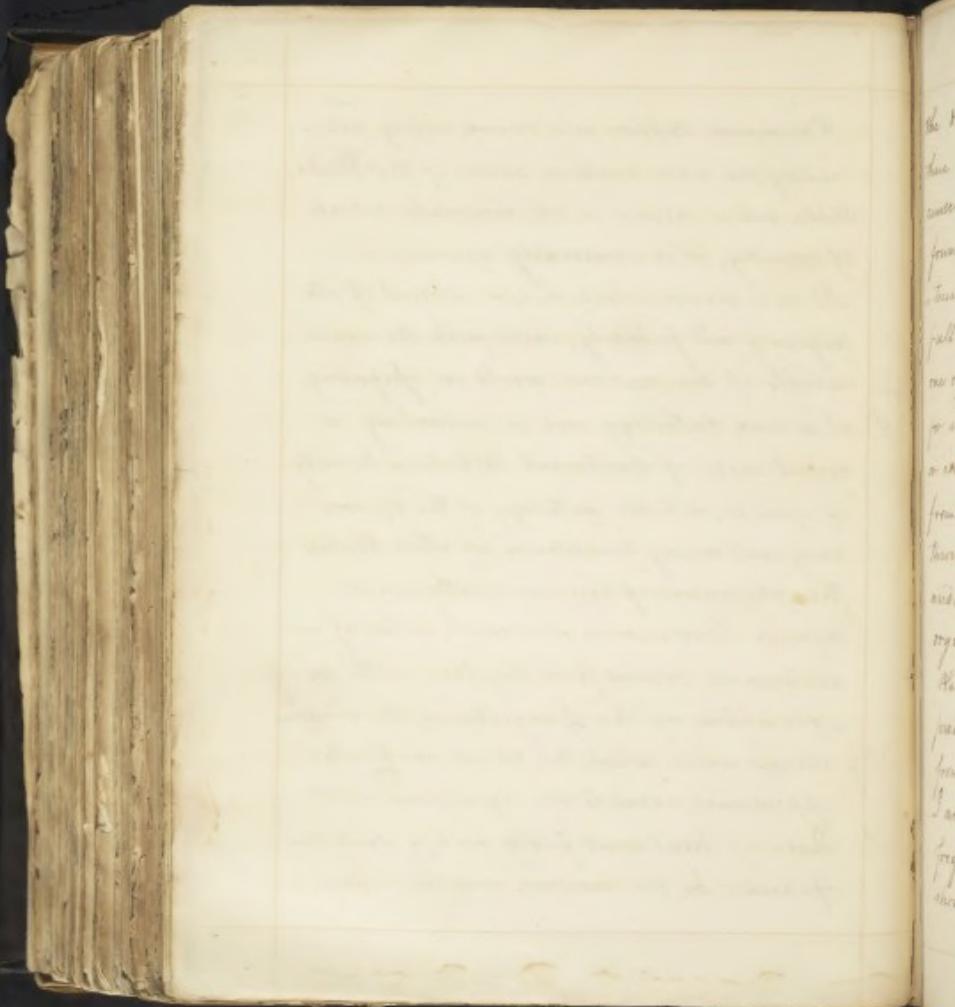
of W. Va.

Virginia

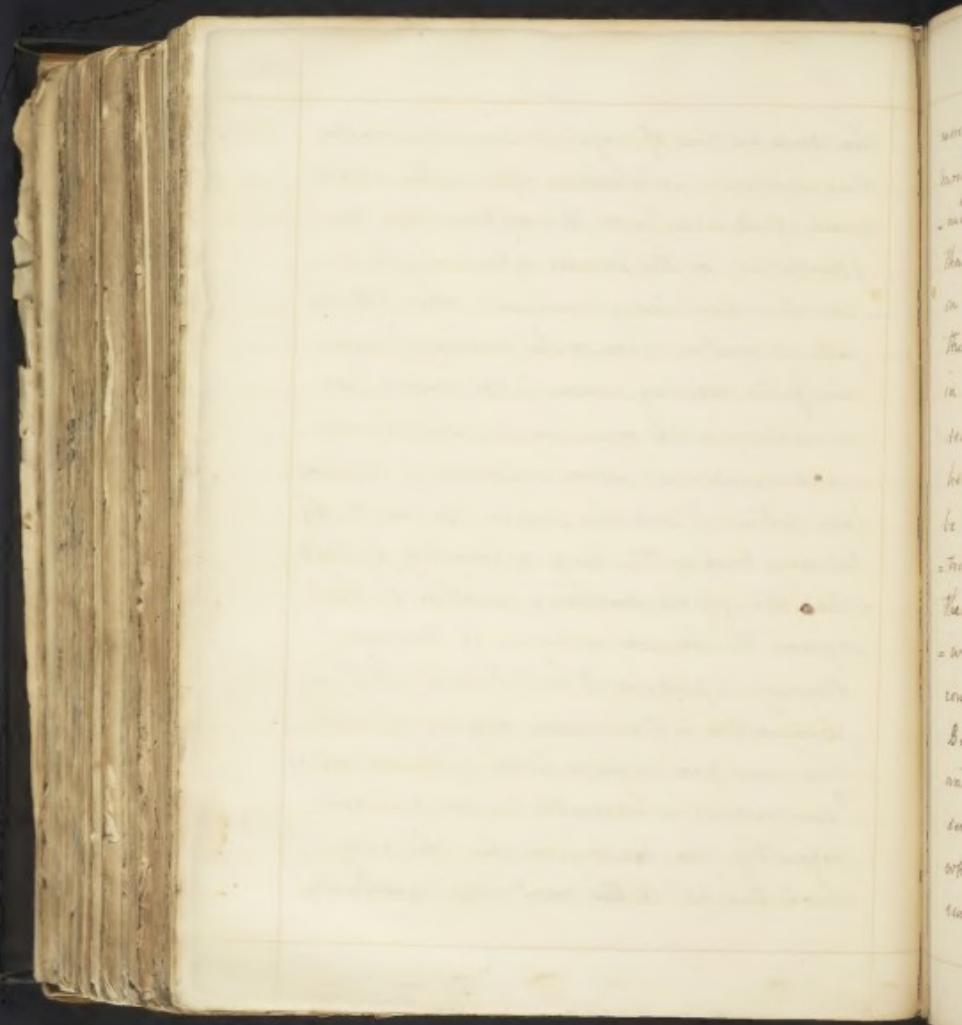
Perf



Pneumonia Biliosa is a disease, widely per-  
sisting the whole southern section of the United  
States, and is endemic in all miasmatic districts  
of country; it is occasionally sporadic. —  
It is a disease, which has, on account of its  
frequency and fatuity, called forth the united  
talents of the medical world, in ascertaining  
it a true Pathology and in indicating a  
correct mode of treatment. Whatever diversity  
of opinion, as to the pathology of this disease,  
may exist among practitioners of other States,  
the physicians of this are pretty well  
agreed. They consider it a combination of our  
autumnal bilious fever together with in-  
flammation of the Lungs. Indeed, the circum-  
stances under which the disease makes its  
appearance, add to the symptoms and  
mode of treatment fully justify such an  
opinion. In the summer months, owing

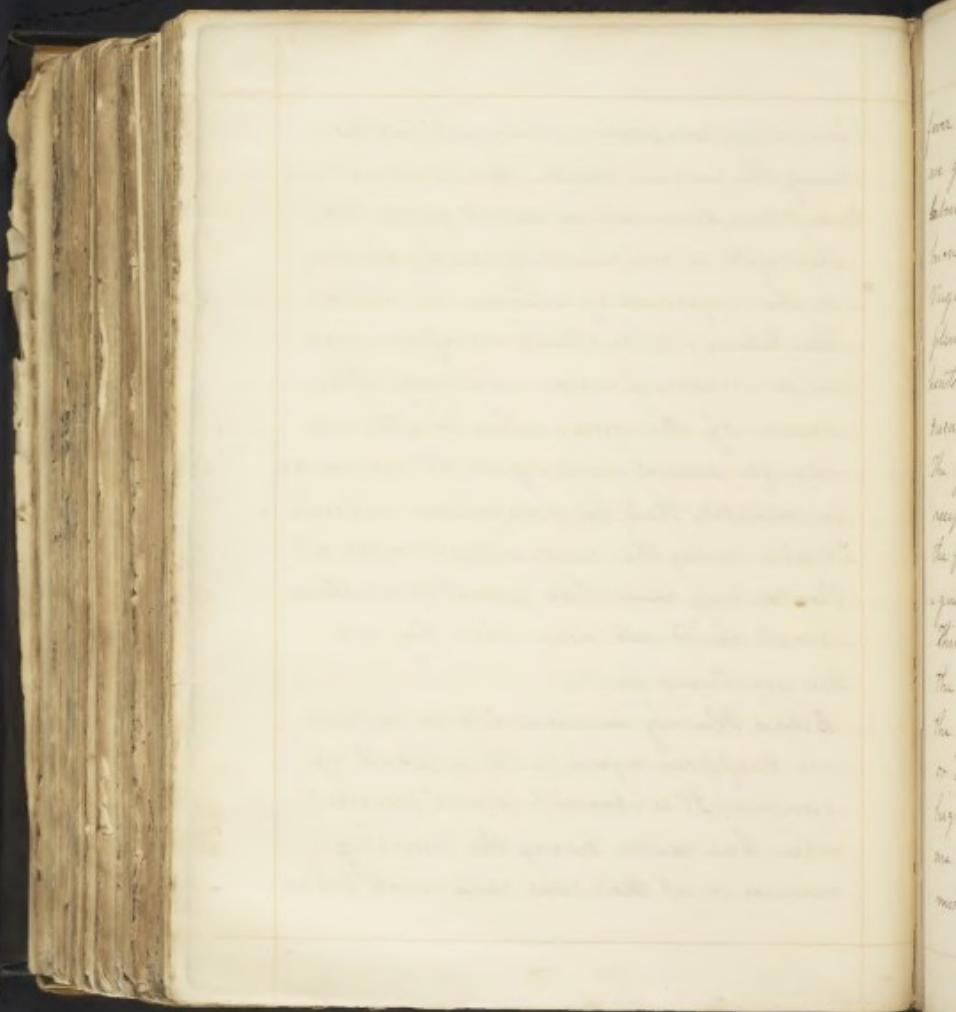


the decomposition of vegetable animal matter,  
there escapes a pestilential effluvia, the remote  
cause of Bilious fever. This effluvia lays the  
foundation for the disease, which may be re-  
tained, without being raised into action 'till the  
fall or winter: when, on the presence of some  
one of the exciting causes of Pneumonia, such  
as instance, as cold or sleeping in damp sheets  
or in unseasonable sudden changes of weather  
from hot to cold, checked perspiration and thereby  
throwing back on the lungs a quantity of blood  
and other fluids producing congestion of that  
organ, the compound disease of Bilious  
Fever is produced. Whilst I admit that a  
predisposition to the disease may be contracted  
from some past contumaciousness of the atmosphere  
I am inclined to believe, that it proceeds more  
frequently from existing malady. And why  
should this not be the case? There is, certainly,

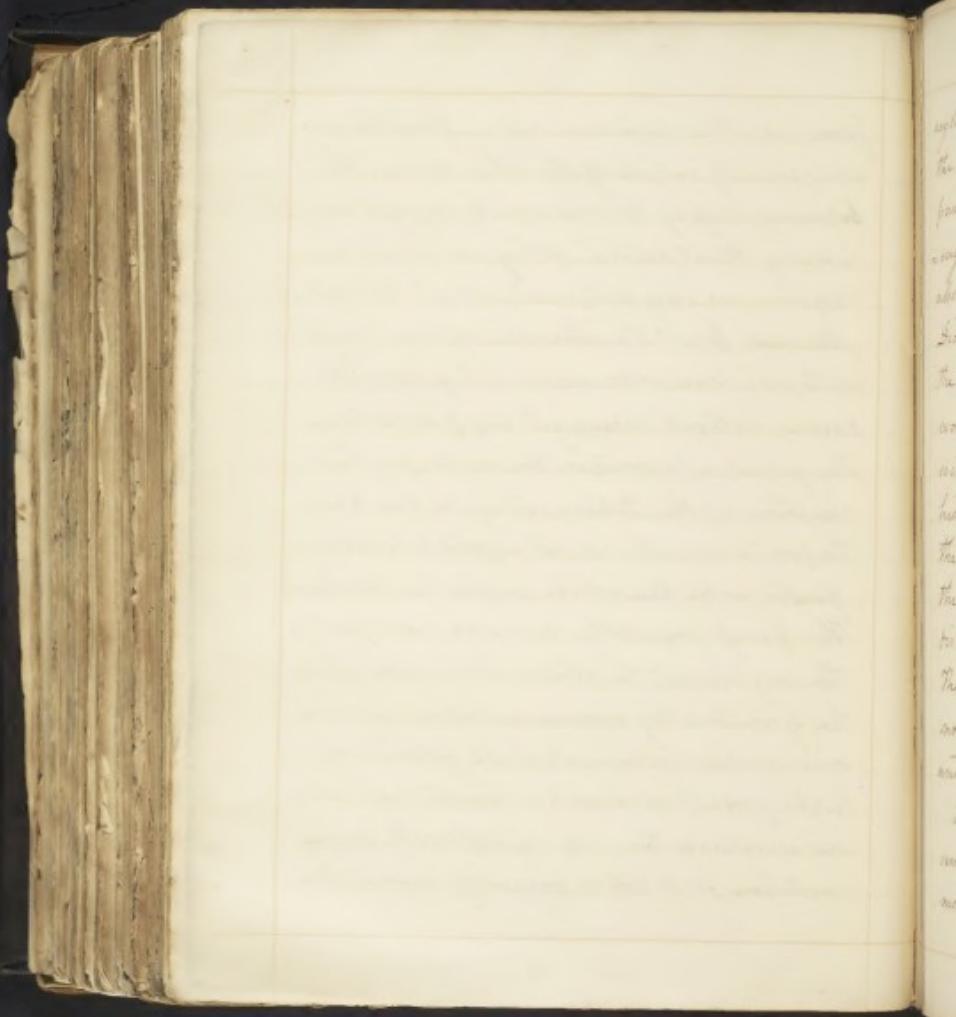


more or less decomposition of vegetable matters  
during the fall and winter. But did we not also  
meet this, how would we account for the fact  
that after a comparatively healthy summer  
or the approach of autumn and winter  
the bilious fever has made its appearance  
in as menacing a form as at any other  
season of the year: as has been the case  
here for several winters past. It will scarcely  
be contended, that the precipitation was con-  
tinued during the summer and swept all  
the exciting causes then present, to be after-  
wards roused into action when they are  
comparatively few: —

Bilious Pleurisy commences late in autumn  
and disappears again on the approach of  
summer. It is observed to be most prevalent,  
when there existed during the preceding  
summer or at that time exists much bilious



fever. And those who have suffered from the one  
are generally subjects of the other disease. The  
labouring class of the community engaged in  
burning "Plant patches" as they are termed in  
Virginia, are subject to most violent bilious  
pleurisies. Is not the alternate exposure to high  
heat and severe colds sufficient to produce the  
disease, without recurring to any predisposition.  
The ground is prepared in the winter, for the  
reception of the Tobacco seed by log fires. When  
the fire is once lit it is not supposed to be extin-  
guished until the whole surface has been burnt.  
This process frequently consumes a great part of  
the night; and the seed must be sown while  
the ground is dry, warm and before any rain  
or snow has fallen. A chill followed by  
high fever, hoarseness & accelerated respiration  
are sometimes the only symptoms. The disease,  
mistaken for a cold, is frequently, unfortunately,



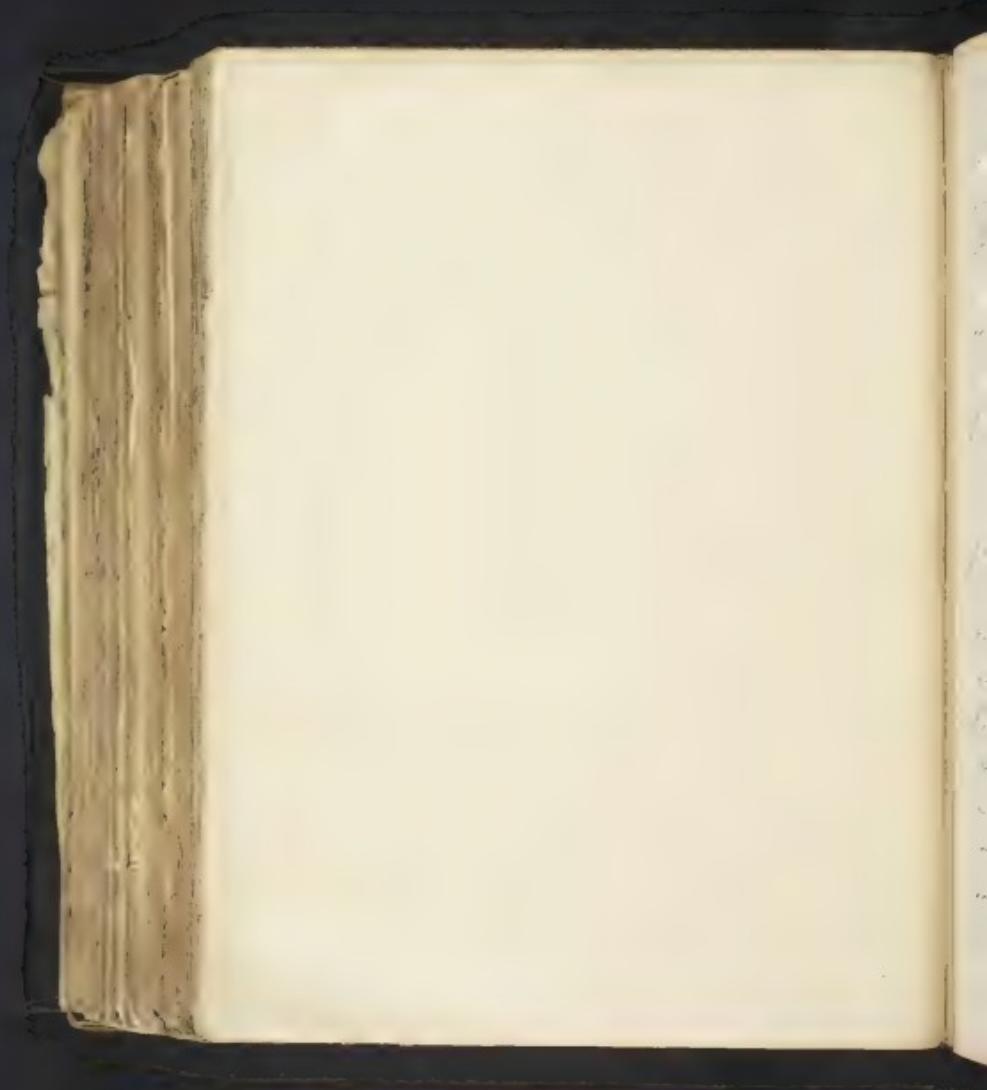
and will be seen with pleasure  
by the author's friends. It is the  
first and probably the most important  
one. The volume of the author's life  
will be issued in two volumes. The  
first volume will contain his personal  
and professional history, and  
the second will contain his literary  
and political career. The first  
volume will be published in 1852,  
and the second in 1853. The  
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The attack of common sense is many  
times more severe than the attack of folly.  
and especially the last of ignorance.

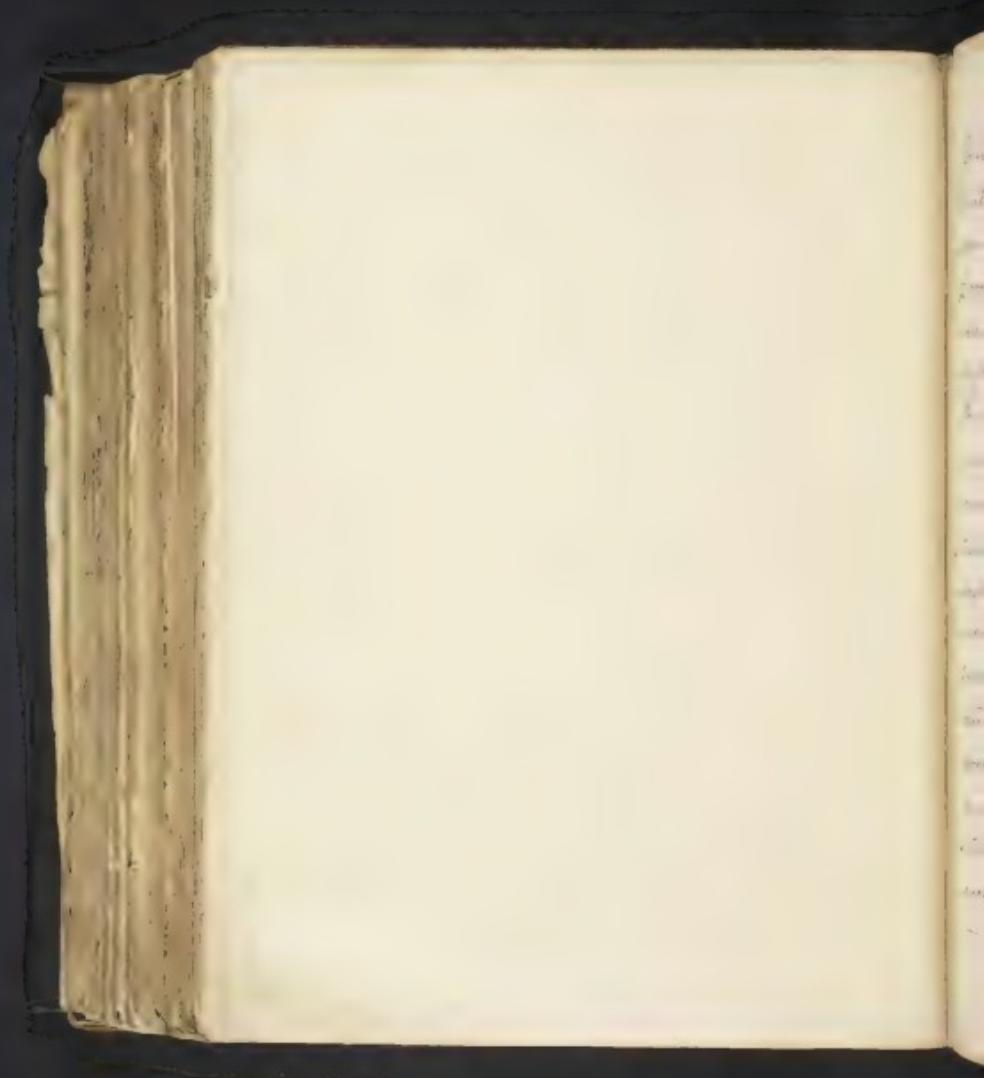


soreness of the muscles or if a puncture num-  
ber of nearly one attiring on 2 to 200  
days - are the attack formerly mentioned.

It is obvious in by a cold stage. In inquiring  
upon observations on the cold stage I have  
found it remains some consequences while  
just enough remnant of his voice. If I  
I share but a what other men have  
done before me. I expect this must have  
been known to have been true. When the first  
and most violent a replaced, full free respiration  
follows. In the short of the man you can feel  
no impeded, not complete until after the lapse  
of several days which is of uncertain.  
In the third division there was a considerable  
The symptoms of the first division which  
have been so accurately delineated by Dr.  
Coxat by his own knowledge and ability  
by such last night I could pass over in silence

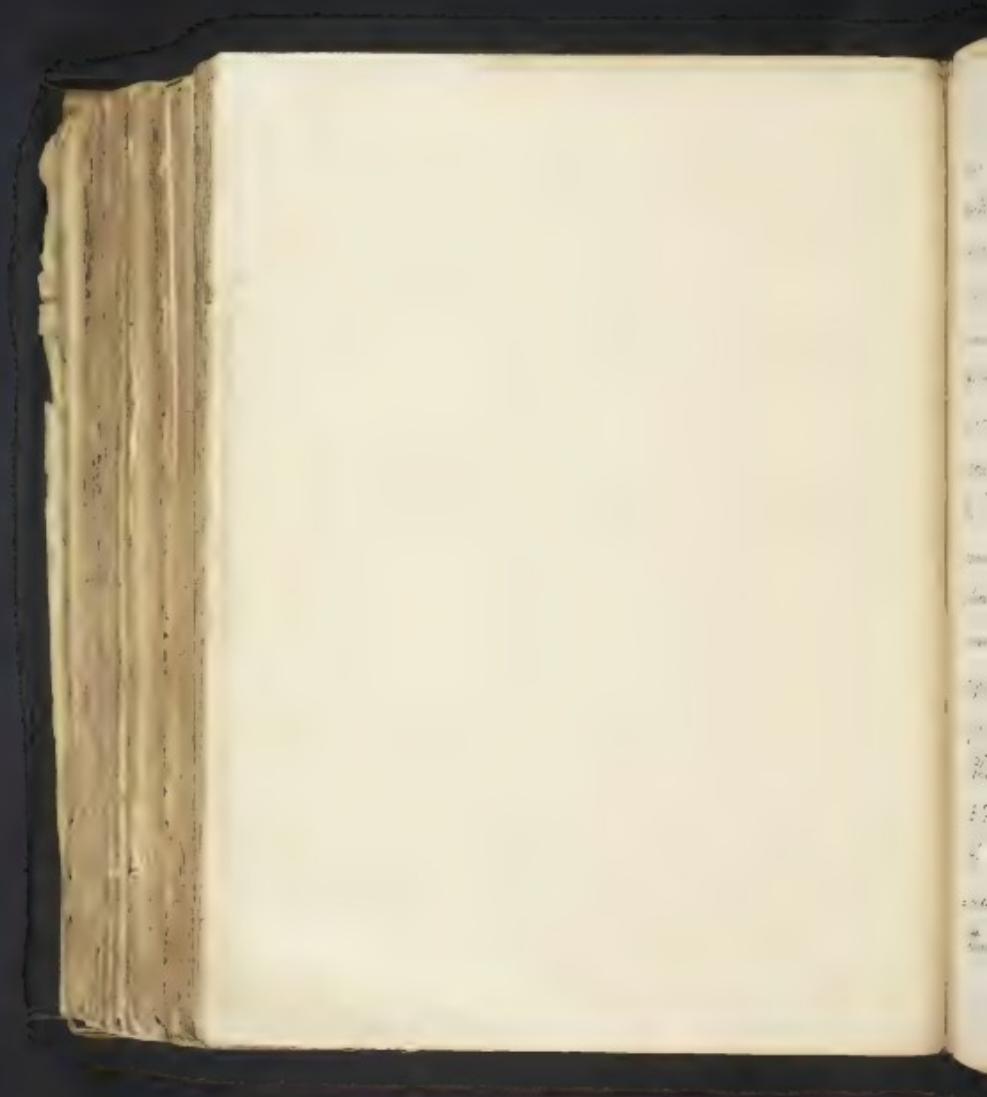


in a man of Genius can expect to do  
nothing more than misery & vexation.  
The usual division of position into manual &  
sensuous action does not call out  
sufficiently the imagination. One natural move  
is a violent roll of heat and a strong repulsion  
of a sharp point or a sudden pressure. This last  
is especially in the right hand easily to  
be seen now more or less, not apparent. There  
was a great difficulty in my attempt at  
a forte imitation only enough I believe  
from the hand used to make the clavicles  
or the clavicle. So much so that  
looking on a others movements imitated  
there is an recognisive motion of the chest  
in attempting a forte imitation. This im-  
itating which the hand would be suddenly  
compelled to move very quickly, more  
or remaining upright by yellow fingers



fluids; are very swollen & watery. If this  
perpetual sweating be not stopped over,  
some other vital organ, as the Heart, Liver  
or Bowels will bear an extra burden  
and thereby the continual sweating  
will be increased in all other organs.

The first symptom is anasarca - it  
comes on all the mucous membranes ex-  
cepting most violent in nose & mouth.  
The patient is soon made to feel  
impairment of power in voluntary, voluntary or  
involuntary acts, as in a manner, but with  
heavy eyes; not violent action in the carotid  
and temporal arteries whilst the pulse at the  
wrist is small & quick. Respiration soon com-  
mences with a hoarse rattling cough, upon  
excitation of respiration. The tongue is  
covered over with a dry black substance  
or smooth & polished. The skin cold



the cerebellum might do. — Head and neck  
where it will not dry or cover over with  
a cold covering is not well suited and  
supplied or greater trouble is in the head  
is particularly subject to a variety and  
abundance of carbuncles. In this case the  
most evident sign however is when the  
congestion is specially evident about itself  
to other organs. When this is accompanied by a  
considerable change in the nutritional condi-  
tion of the system is noticed. Nutrition becomes  
more general and the heat more intense and a  
system is restored, and exemplified in the  
patients now completely or from badings  
The disease generally runs off in  
8 to 15 days after the attack. A symptom  
of the symptoms in the man up to become  
able. It can occur, however, at some of  
the most dangerous symptoms usually



precede death. The critical moment may be  
opious expectoration such as from evacuation  
from the bowel, increased respiration of urine  
with a general giddiness and mortification of the  
whole surface —

#### Treatment.

The general view of treatment is a combination  
of the four below, never one for simple  
prostration.

In all acute diseases it is often truly next  
to impossible to see the function of the  
different viscera organs and therefore their  
products. Inasmuch that when this is effected  
the patient may be said to be living well. To  
be now anxious the secretion has a certain  
use is most imprudent. So far as we can  
the remand applies most frequently to an excess  
of excretion especially of the excretions

In the combination before us they are all



simply resting. Hence we have the first of  
incapacity, the next. It is now however  
a question where we stand now  
and it is difficult to say, but I think  
we are in a state of incapa-

city. I am not quite  
sure, but I think we have not  
got to a point yet, such as you mention  
by the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, when we can  
say we are out of them.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June we will be  
in a position to say whether we are

out of them or not. I am  
now, and so the nature of the  
incapacity, seems to be some  
new thing, generally above the incapa-  
city of the things I have seen hitherto.  
I think it has been in contact with



probably produce the same effect. We  
then have a case of simple bronchitis  
to manage; and by a judicious use of prophy-  
taxis & emetic, & concerted to remove with the  
most congestration, the bronchi will clear by  
gutta. It however, will be necessary to  
use a cathartic to remove the mucus &  
thickened痰 from the bronchi, & to give  
it a free passage.

After two or three days of cathartics, the  
bronchi & lungs will become clean & bright.  
The next step would be to induce a copious & profuse  
sweat in the body, can be done by a warm bath.  
I am sure you have a good  
I in the apothecary or medical store to be given  
a warm bath. After a bath when the body  
has dried off, remain a day longer, &  
a week in bed, & then you will be up in





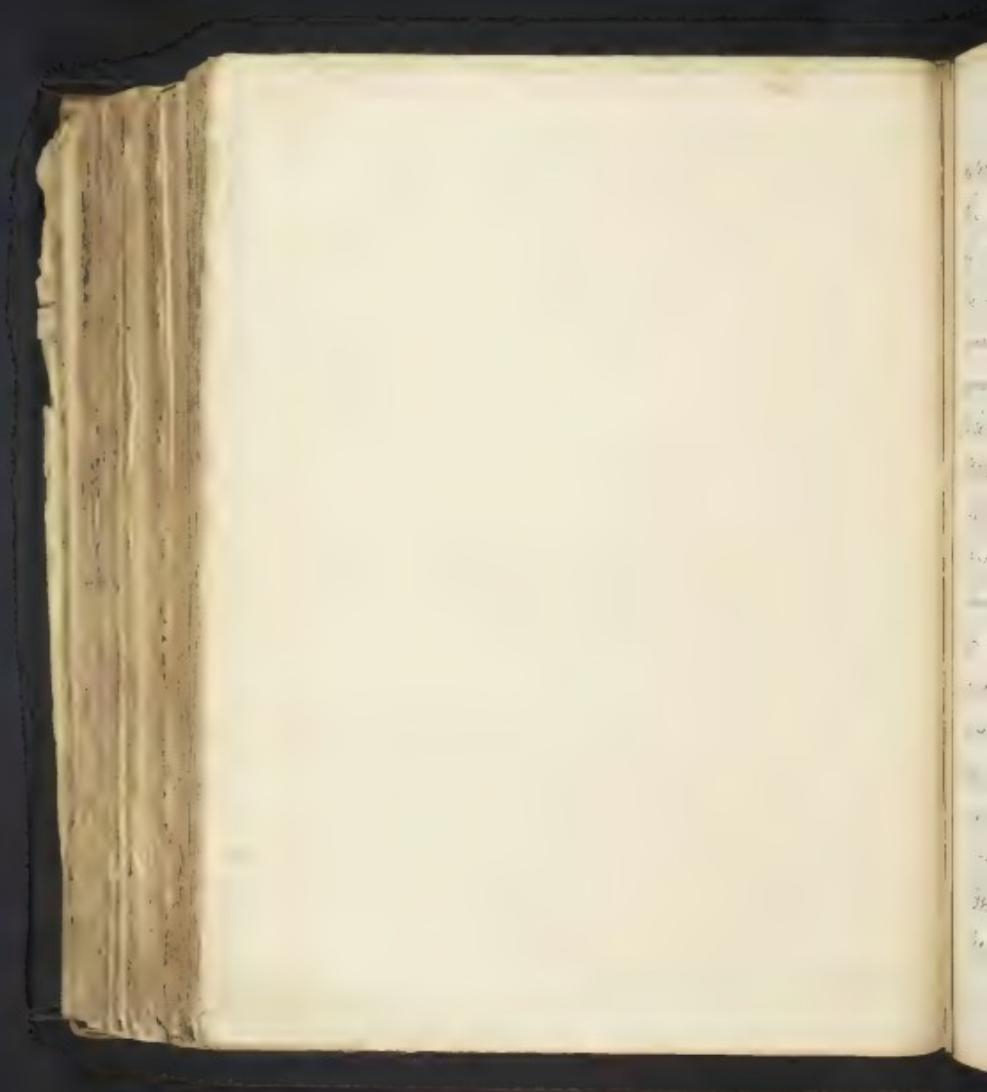


The collection, however, is, ~~now~~ at the 4th  
stage, so that every element of the soil  
be known sufficient to produce a general relation  
with the climate & vegetation. It will then  
be occupying a more extended area in the  
same circumstances, recent waterings, & perhaps  
in the whole course of the same, so that no  
very remarkable variation will be seen  
upon any given site, except nature in some degree  
plans the most difficult course. It follows,  
then, several other questions, which are, when  
the streams approach the ocean, whether  
the alluvial strata are to be inundated, or not  
in the winter - the alluvial strata will receive  
watering in winter, but more sparingly than  
in summer. Deneud's article on inundation  
is, I think, excellent, & I have been much  
pleased with it, & I am still applying  
him as far as he goes, to the coast.



In this zone, there is a great increase in  
the information I can give you of the trees,  
and plants which grow in this zone, in relation  
with their properties.

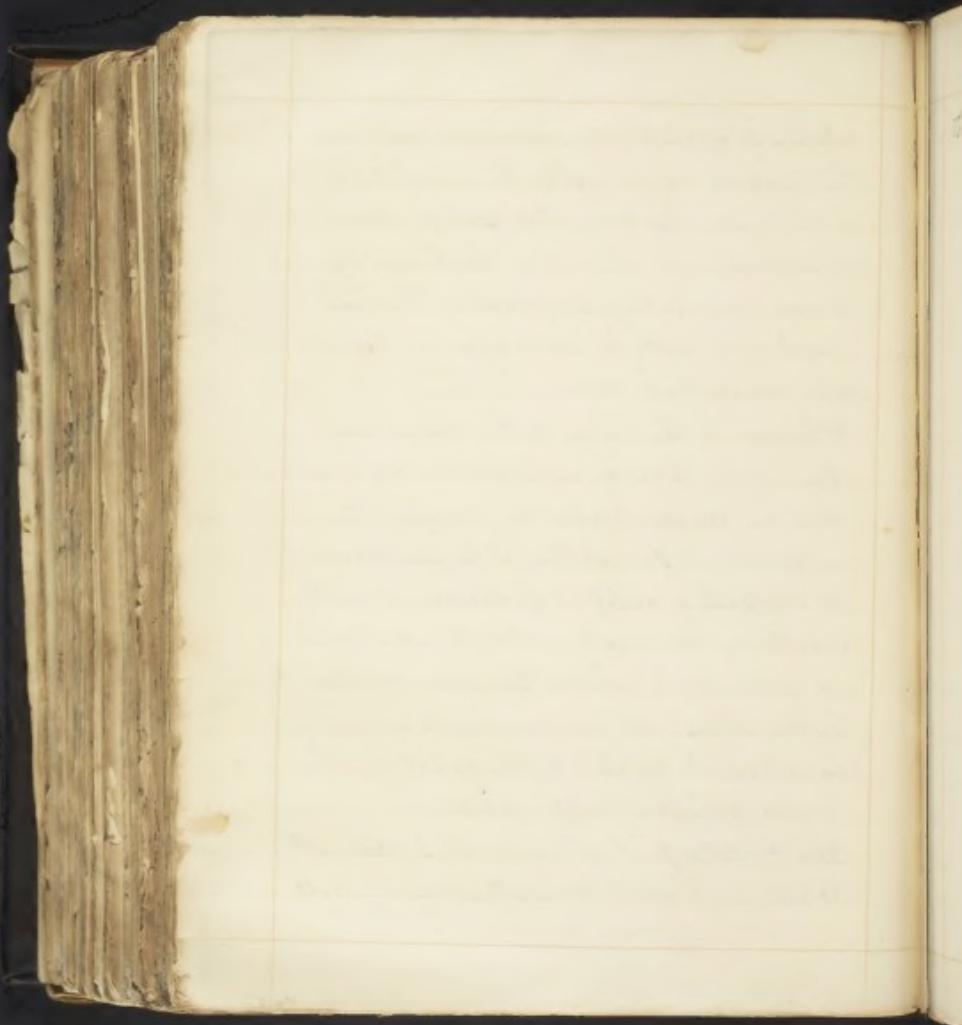
The trees, in the first division where  
there is no rain at all, it will interest  
you to know what is the most numerous  
and common tree in this zone? external  
and external situation of mine, there can now  
be no doubt of their number. They are numerous  
especially, sometimes numerous to supersede the growth  
of the forest, and it makes the glades  
of other countries. Our main dependence now  
is Tartar roots; which, however, is even smaller  
and not a little difficult, as they are  
so minute, and so numerous, especially  
in the spring, in this number, or, when  
a particular reason, at the same time there  
is not less, perhaps, as Tartar roots, to be



extensively applied to the extremities and over  
the Epigastric region. After the susceptibility  
of the system has been restored, reaction should  
be encouraged by the warm bath and by  
warm stimulating Sinphoretis. The case  
must afterwards be treated upon the princi-  
ples already laid down.

Whenever in the course of the disease any  
other organ takes on inflammation, we should  
first of all remedies to arrest the progress of the  
inflammation. For whether it be symptomatic  
or idiopathic, unless it be checked, it will  
inevitably terminate in death. And, whilst  
we endeavour to remove the cause of the  
inflammation, our remedies should at the  
same time, be applied to the relief of the  
organ, symptomatically affected. —

The ~~Physical~~<sup>diabetic</sup> part of treatment, I need not  
detail, as it will obviously suggest itself



To the discriminating practitioner. —

200